

PATRICIA E APY ESQ.

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Patricia Apy has since 1996 been a partner in the law firm of Paras, Apy, & Reiss, a professional corporation specializing in the practice of Family Law. Ms. Apy's area of expertise is in complex International and Interstate Family Litigation.

Ms. Apy has litigated, been qualified as an expert witness and consulted on international family disputes throughout the world, including locations as diverse as the United Kingdom, Brazil, Italy, Israel, Australia, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and United Arab Emirates. Ms. Apy frequently consults and is regularly qualified as an expert on issues related to the application of religiously based family law systems, including Sharia (Islamic) law, Halacha (Jewish) law, Orthodox Christian denominations and the application of the Hindu Marriage Act (Indian Law). She speaks throughout the United States on family dispute resolution in both Hague and "Non-Hague" countries and in assessing risk factors for international child abduction. She also has conducted over a thousand hours of Continuing Legal Education for the Judge Advocate General Corps of all of the United States armed services at military bases and on vessels around the world.

EXPERIENCE

Patricia has been a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (previously known as the International Academy of Matrimonial lawyers) since 1998.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Ms. Apy began in September of 2001 as the liaison from the Family Law Section to the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Assistance to Military Personnel and was appointed in August of 2005 to serve three years as a Committee Member. Prior to that she served as the Chair of the International Law and Procedure Committee of the Family Law Section of the ABA for over a decade. In 2003 she was appointed to serve on the ABA Presidential Task Force addressing the unmet legal needs of Service Members. For her work, she received the American Bar Association's national Grassroots Advocacy Award, given at the United States Supreme Court and was acknowledged in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives; She is the recipient of the New Jersey Bar Association's Distinguished Legislative Service Award, for her work in authoring and advocating for the passage of New Jersey's Military Custody statute, and the New Jersey Bar Association's Military Section, Military Support Award, for her commitment to Legal Assistance for Military members.

CASES

Ms. Apy has participated in numerous reported decisions having significant impact upon the practice of law. Of note, she served as counsel for David Goldman, a New Jersey father whose son was the first American child returned pursuant to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction from Brazil.

She has argued to United States Court of Appeals regarding the application of the Hague Abduction Convention numerous times in a number of United States Circuit courts. In 2002, she served on appointment by the United States Fourth Circuit, to prevail in the case of *Fawcett v McRoberts*, regarding the application of the Abduction Convention and the doctrine of "mootness".

She returned to the Fourth circuit in *Cohen v Cohen*, successfully representing a United States military officer, addressing the exercise of jurisdiction by Art.III Courts over petitions for the organization of rights of parental access under the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, 22 USC 9001 et seq.

She prevailed in the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in the Case of *Barzilay v. Barzilay* regarding the exercise of concurrent jurisdiction and the doctrine of federal abstention.

Mrs. Apy regularly practices in the Courts of the United States and has been admitted to the United States District Courts of New Jersey, the Northern and Southern Districts of New York, Eastern District of Missouri, Western District of Texas, District of Puerto Rico, District of Maryland, Western District of Virginia, and the United States Courts of Appeals for the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Eighth Circuits. She argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court, in December 1996., the first reported decision in the United States which addressed the 1996 Hague Protection of Minors Treaty, *Ivaldi v. Ivaldi*, in a matter involving the exercise and enforcement of subject matter jurisdiction over child custody, in litigation conducted in Morocco. She represented the successful appellant in the matter of *Sajjad v Cheema*, a decision of the exceptionally distinguished appellate panel which consisted of the former acting Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, the Honorable Mary Catherine Cuff; the Honorable Jerome M. St. John, with the opinion delivered by the former Presiding Judge of the New Jersey Appellate Division, the Hon. Judge Marie E Lihotz, on the international application of the provisions of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. This case has been referenced as persuasive authority 25 times in New Jersey, and in the reported decisions in 10 sister States. In addition, the *Sajjad v Cheema* decision, is expressly referenced in the annotations of four New Jersey statutes; and is included in briefs submitted, and referenced in decisions rendered in the Supreme Courts of 11 states outside of New Jersey.

TEACHING

She has served as Guest faculty at the Judge Advocate General School of the Army - University of Virginia, the Naval Justice School, Naval

Station Newport Rhode Island , and the Air Force Judge Advocate General School of the United States, Maxwell Air Force Base Montgomery Alabama , on issues of Advanced Family Law, Religious Law, International Child Custody and Child Support Law and Procedures; Family Care plans and Guardianship/estate planning issues.

She served as Practitioner in Residence at Washburn University School of Law in Spring 2012.

She serves regularly as guest faculty at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Oklahoma most recently teaching “International Law & Peacemaking- International Human Rights “

MEDIA COMMENTATOR

Ms. Apy regularly serves as a speaker and contributor on Interstate and International Family Law, having made appearances on numerous national and international media including: , CNN International, NBC Nightly News; 20/20 ; ABC World News Tonight; The Today Show; Good Morning America; and Fox News; as a commentator on legal issues involving international law .

EXPERT TESTIMONY AND CONSULTATION

Ms. Apy has served as an expert witness over 50 times, in 15 states of the United States , twice before Federal District Courts and in three International Courts, regarding International and applicable law issues , military policy and regulation applicable to servicemembers and veterans. She has been called upon to act as primary counsel, to offer expert testimony, and to serve as foreign legal consultant on the management of litigation being conducted in multiple jurisdictions here and abroad and the drafting and entry of internationally enforceable mirror orders.

PUBLICATIONS

“MANAGING CHILD CUSTODY CASES INVOLVING NON-HAGUE CONTRACTING STATES”, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS,

VOL. 14, SUMMER 1997 FOR WHICH SHE RECEIVED A COMMENDATION FOR EXCELLENCE FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS.

“USE OF UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN PRIVATE FAMILY LITIGATION”, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL ON FIGHTING POVERTY, FALL 1998.

SELECTED TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR THE FAMILY PRACTITIONER”, GUEST EDITOR, ABA FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY, VOL. 32, FALL 1998,

“DISTANT DISCOVERY”, FAMILY ADVOCATE VOL. 21, No. 3, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, FALL 1998.

“COMPULSORY CONVERSATIONS : THE MANDATORY JUDICIAL COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE UCCJEA OCTOBER 2001 PRESENTED ABA FAMILY LAW SECTION MEETING, VANCOUVER BC;

“ UIFSA AND THE UCCJEA AND MILITARY MEMBERS”, WEB AND CD ROM PROGRAM : PRESENTER, PRODUCED JUNE 2003.

“FAMILY LAW CHALLENGES AND THE AIR FORCE, ‘OR WHEN YOU ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY HAVE TO BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD OVERNIGHT”, REVISED MARCH 12TH 2004

“THE CASE FOR RECIPROCITY : UNDERSTANDING THE SEAN AND DAVID GOLDMAN INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL KIDNAPPING PREVENTION AND RECOVERY ACT” PRESENTED AT THE IAFL US-CANADA CHAPTER MEETING QUEBEC CANADA JUNE 9, 2015 AND THEREAFTER PUBLISHED IN NEW JERSEY LAWYER. OCTOBER 2015 No.296, P.46-53.

“MILITARY MINEFIELDS IN FAMILY LAW CASES ‘ WITH MICHAEL J FLERES ESQ. NEW JERSEY LAWYER , FEBRUARY 2022.

